

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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O 201611Z MAY 75 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9299

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 3983

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL

1. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION (AT A SMALL LUNCHEON HE WAS GIVING
TURESDAY, MAY 20, IN HONOR OF VISITING TIME MANAGING EDITOR ANATOLE
GUNWALD), FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL DECLARED THAT HE WAS VERY PLEASED WITH
THE ROME MEETINGS AND CONFIDENT THAT THE GREEK TURKISH DIALOGUE NOW
UNDERWAY "WOULD PRODUCE A RESULT." UNFORTUNATELY, HE DID NOT
ELABORATE ON THIS AS TIME'S LOCAL TURKISH STRINGER JOINED THE GROUP
AT THIS POINT AND THE FONMIN ABRUPTLY SHIFTED TO OTHER SUBJECTS.
HOWEVER, IN AN ASIDE WITH HIS AIDE, I WAS ADVISED THAT CAGLAYANGIL
WAS NOT SIMPLY SAYING THIS FOR AMERICAN EARS BUT WAS IN FACT VERY
PLEASED AND DEFINITELY HOPEFUL AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE ROME MEETINGS.
CAGLAYANGIL'S AIDE (SEMIH AKBIL, MFA PRESS SPOKESMAN) CONTINUED THAT
IT WAS CAGLAYANGIL'S VIEW THAT BITSIOS CAME AWAY WITH A SIMILAR
REACTION. BOTH MEN, HE ASSERTED, HAD USED THE MEETING AS A "FEELING
OUT" EXERCISE, AND IT WAS THE TURK IMPRESSION THAT BOTH HAD LIKED
WHAT THEY ENCOUNTERED. AKBIL SAID, HOWEVER, THAT GOT SPOKESMEN
WERE GOING TO LOW KEY THEIR OPTIMISM IN DEALING WITH THEIR OWN MEDIA
IN ORDER TO GUARD AGAINST LETDOWNS LATER ON. AKBIL ALSO CONFIRMED
THAT ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT IN THE COMMUNIQUE, THE TWO MINISTERS HAD
REACHED AN AGREEMENT THAT THEIR RESPECTIVE CHIEFS OF GOVT WOULD DEF-
INITELY MEET IN BRUSSELS. THIS WOULD TAKE PLACE AFTER BITSIOS AND
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CAGLAYANGIL HAD RECONVENED THEIR OWN MEETING THERE.

2. LATER DURING THE LUNCHEON, GUNWALD, ON A BACKGROUND BASIS, PROBED CAGLAYANGIL ABOUT THE BASICS OF A CYPRUS SOLUTION. CAGLAYANGIL'S RESPONSE WAS ALONG LINES WITH WHICH YOU ARE FAMILIAR BUT WAS NOTABLE IN ITS LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR REFUGEE RETURN, AND HIS STATEMENT THAT TURKEY HAD SOME, "BUT VERY LITT," FLEXIBILITY AS TO TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS.

3. GUNWALD AT THAT POINT SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD IT ASSERTED THAT UNTIL

THERE WAS A GOT ELECTION, THERE WOULD NOT BE A GOVT IN TURKEY STRONG ENOUGH TO REACH A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. CAGLAYANGIL REACTED VERY STRONGLY TO THIS COMMENT. HE SAID HE DID NOT RPT NOT AGREE WITH IT AND THAT A RESOLUTION COULD NOT RPT NOT WAIT FOR THE NEXT ELECTIONS. WHAT BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY NEEDED, HE SAID, WAS A "QUICK RESOLUTION." THIS WOULD REQUIRE BOLDNESS ON THE PART OF PRESENT LEADERS AND HE EMPHASIZED IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THIS BOLDNESS BE FORTHCOMING.

4. AFTER LUNCH THE CONVERSATION TURNED TO YESTERDAY'S SENATE VOTE. ALTHOUGH PLEASED THAT THE SENATE HAD ACTED AFFIRMATIVELY, CAGLAYANGIL WAS OBVIOUSLY DISTURBED AND SHAKEN BY THE NARROW ONE-VOTE MARGIN BY WHICH IT WAS ACCOMPLISHED. HIS REPEATED QUESTION WAS THAT IF THERE WAS ONLY ONE VOTE MARGIN IN THE SENATE WHICH WAS EXPECTED TO BE MUCH THE EASIER OF THE TWO HOUSES, HOW COULD THE GOT NOW HAVE ANY REAL HOPE FOR A PROMPT AND SUCCESSFUL VOTE IN THE HOUSE? I SAID THAT WHILE I HAD NOT RECEIVED A FULLY REPORT YET, I STRONGLY SUSPECTED THAT THERE WERE MORE FAVORABLE VOTES AVAILABLE TO THE SENATE LEADERS IF THESE HAD BEEN NEEDED, AND IN THAT SENSE THE SENATE VOTE WAS ISLEADING. I ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION COULD HAVE HELD OFF THE VOTE FOR SOME DAYS OR SOME WEEKS AND, THROUGH ITS WORK IN THAT INTERIM PERIOD, COULD HAVE MORE THAN LIKELY PRODUCED A CONSIDERABLY STRONGER RESULT. I WAS SURE, HOWEVER, THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS INTERESTED IN THE BASIC RESULT, NOT HOW THE VOTE LOOKED. I ADDED THAT I PERSONALLY FELT THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO MOVE AS SOON AS THE VOTE COULD BE WON RATHER THAN TO WAIT FOR A LONGER PERIOD SIMPLY TO WIN IT MORE CONVINCINGLY. I EMPHASIZED THAT WE WERE NOW HALFWAY HOME AND THAT FROM HERE ON WE COULD DEVOTE ALL OUR EFFORTS TO THE HOUSE. I WAS SURE, I SAID, THAT YOU AND THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE LEADING A MAJOR EFFORT THERE STARTING AS SOON AS

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THE NATO SUMMIT MEETING WAS OVER, AND I EXPECTED TO BE PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN THIS AS WELL.

5. I SAID THAT WE WERE GOING TO NEED SOME TIME TO ACCOMPLISH THE RESULT WE WANTED IN THE HOUSE BUT THAT I WAS CONFIDENT THAT WITH TIME WE WOULD BE ABLE TO DO THIS. AT THE END OF OUR DISCUSSION, GUNWALD WEIGHED IN STRONGLY TO SUPPORT WHAT I HAD SAID ABOUT TIME IN THE END PRODUCING THE CORRECT RESULT. CAGLAYANGIL REMAINED VERY SKEPTICAL BUT

DID OFFER, AS A CONCLUDING COMMENT, THAT HIS MIDDLE NAME WAS SABRI,
WHICH IN TURKISH MEANS PATIENCE.

6. COMMENT: FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCES TODAY ARE BEING VERY CLOSE-MOUTHED ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE ROME TALKS EITHER BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT YET BEEN DEBRIEFED, OR BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN PUT UNDER WRAPS. IN ANY EVENT, A DETAILED EXPOSITION OF THE TURKISH ASSESSMENT WILL LIKELY HAVE TO AWAIT YOUR MEETING WITH CAGLAYANGIL THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

7. EVERYONE IN THIS EMBASSY IS DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR THE STRENUOUS AND EFFECTIVE EFFORT THAT WAS MADE IN CONNECTION WITH THE SENATE VOTE. DESPITE OUR SATISFACTION WITH THE OUTCOME, HOWEVER, THE ONE-VOTE MARGIN UNDERMINES SOME OF THE ADVANTAGE WE WOULD NORMALLY HAVE REAPED IF THE RESULT HAD BEEN SLIGHTLY LESS RAZOR-THIN. MANY TURKS, KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE RELATIVE SENATE AND HOUSE PROSPECTS, ARE DRAWING PESSMISTIC CONCLUSIONS RE THE FUTURE. AS A CONSEQUENCE, WE ARE HEARING MORE TODAY OF TURKISH CONCERN, THAN OF SATISFACTION, OVER THE OUTCOME.

8. ONE OF THE IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES OF YOUR FORTHCOMING VISIT SHOULD THEREFORE BE, I BELIEVE, TO CONVINCE TURK LEADERS THAT JUST AS THE ADMINISTRTRION TURNED THINGS AROUND IN THE SENATE, IT HAS A REAL CHANCE, GIVEN TIME, OF DOING THE SAME THING IN THE HOUSE. IT WOULD SEEM THAT AN EQUIALLY IMPORTANT COROLLARY TO THIS WOULD BE EMPHASIZING TO THE TURKS THAT THE REASON THE VOTE WAS WON IN THE SENATE WAS THE CONVICTION ON THE PART OF MANY OF ITS MEMBERS THAT THIS WOULD NOW FACILITATE GREATER TURKISH FLEXIBILITY AND PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS -- AND THAT FOR US TO CONTINUE TO WIN VOTES BY WHATEVER MARGIN IT IS IMPORTANT FOR TURKISH ACTIONS TO DEMONSTATE THE TRUTH OF THIS ARGUMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ANKARA03983
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750176-1123
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750533/aaaabdk1.tel
Line Count: 154
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2003 by ellisob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISCUSSION WITH FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL
TAGS: PINT, TU, GR, (CAGLAYANGIL), (GUNWALD, ANATOLE)
To: BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006